

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claim 1 as shown below.

1. (Currently Amended) A rechargeable battery which includes a plurality of connected cells, each of which includes an overcurrent protecting element connected to the cell in series, comprising:

a pair of first electrodes configured to extract electric power from the battery;

a pair of second electrodes which is different from said pair of first electrodes and is configured to charge and discharge each of said plurality of cells individually through the overcurrent protecting element; and

a switch configured to series connect said plurality of cells without the overcurrent protecting elements when the battery is not attached to a charger such that electric power can be extracted from the series-connected plurality of cells through said pair of first electrodes, and configured to electrically separate said plurality of cells from one another when the battery is attached to the charger such that each of said plurality of cells can be charged individually by the charger through said pair of second electrodes.

2 to 11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously Presented) The battery according to claim 1, wherein the battery is a battery pack in which said plurality of cells are assembled.

13. (Cancelled)